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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A half-bridge inverter is powered from a constant-magnitude DC supply voltage and provides at the inverter's output a first AC output voltage that is describable as a modified squarewave voltage. This first AC voltage is applied across a series-combination of an inductor and a capacitor, the junction between which is clamped to the DC supply voltage. As a result, a second AC voltage gets established across the capacitor; which second AC voltage is also describable as being a modified squarewave voltage. However, the phasing of the second AC voltage is delayed by approximately 90 degrees with respect to the first AC voltage; which results in the voltage across the inductor being of approximately sinusoidal waveform. A fluorescent lamp is connected in series with a ballast capacitor; and the lamp-capacitor series combination is connected across the inductor, thereby resulting in a nearly sinusoidal current being provided to the fluorescent lamp. Lamp starting aid is provided by a voltage-doubling circuit supplying a high-magnitude current-limited DC voltage across the ballast capacitor for ignition purposes.